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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,050	11/13/2003	Ta-Yuan Lee	LEE0025-US	7138
7590 08/24/2005			EXAMINER	
MICHAEL D. BEDNAREK SHAW PITTMAN LLP 1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD MCLEAN, VA 22102			NGUYEN, HOAN C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/706,050

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

HOAN C. NGUYEN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5,14,15 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-13 and 16-19 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group 1 and Species A, Subspecies III (claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-13 and 16-17) filed on 15 July 2005 is acknowledged.

Applicant's arguments regarding the restriction requirement have been considered; however, the traversal was on the grounds that there is no serious burden on the Examiner in examining all of claims 1-20 together. This is not found persuasive since the difference between the first (third) brightness for first (third) state ON and the second (fourth) brightness for second (fourth) state ON is not similar to the second and third state OFF. Besides, claim 20 cites a feature "a light guide plate with two display areas", there is no Drawing and Manufacturing Process of this light guide plate having two display areas.

However, two related subspecies III and IV are rejoined since there is no serious burden on the searches for first and second light guide plates.

Therefore, the requirement is deemed proper and is considered to be final.

Claims 4-5, 14-15 and 20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected inventions and species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Therefore, ONLY claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-19 are pending in the elected Species.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-3 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (US5704703).

Yamada et al. teach (Fig. 42) teach a display apparatus comprising:

Claim 1:

- a panel having a first area and a second area;
- a first light source 201 for illuminating said first area, said first light source independently and selectively entering into a first state and a second state; and
- a second light source 201 for illuminating said second area, said second light source independently and selectively entering into a third state and a fourth state;

Claims 6-7:

- a first light guide plate for reflecting and scattering light provided by said first light source so that light inherently uniformly illuminates said first area, wherein said first light guide plate further comprises a light guide structure for reflecting light provided by said first light source to said first area.

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Claims 8-9:

- a second light guide plate for reflecting and scattering light provided by said second light source so that light inherently uniformly illuminates said second area, wherein said second light guide plate further comprises a groove surface for reflecting light provided by said second light source to said second area.

wherein

- said first state is different from said second state, and said third state is different from said fourth state.

Claim 2:

- said first state is an ON state, and said second state is an OFF state.

Claim 3:

- said third state is an ON state, and said fourth state is an OFF state.

Claim 10:

- said display apparatus comprises a liquid crystal display device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (US5704703) in view of Hara et al. (US6885360B2).

Yamada et al. teach (Fig. 42) teach a display apparatus comprising:

Claims 1 and 11:

- a panel having a first area and a second area;
- a first light source 201 for illuminating said first area, said first light source independently and selectively entering into a first state and a second state; and
- a second light source 201 for illuminating said second area, said second light source independently and selectively entering into a third state and a fourth state;

Claims 6-7 and 16-17:

- a first light guide plate for reflecting and scattering light provided by said first light source so that light uniformly illuminates said first area, wherein said first light guide plate further comprises a light guide structure for reflecting light provided by said first light source to said first area.

Claims 8-9 and 18-19:

- a second light guide plate for reflecting and scattering light provided by said second light source so that light uniformly illuminates said second area, wherein said second light guide plate further comprises a groove surface for reflecting light provided by said second light source to said second area.

wherein

- said first state is different from said second state, and said third state is different from said fourth state.

Claims 2 and 12:

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- said first state is an ON state, and said second state is an OFF state.

Claims 3 and 13:

- said third state is an ON state, and said fourth state is an OFF state.

Claim 10:

- said display apparatus comprises a liquid crystal display device.

However, Yamada et al. fail to disclose a processor for determining states of said first light source and said second light source.

Hara et al. teach a processor to determine states of the light source for selecting and designating the magnitude of the display brightness.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify a display apparatus as Yamada et al. disclosed with a processor to determine states of the light source for selecting and designating the magnitude of the display brightness, as taught by Hara et al. (col. 5 lines 60-63).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Yu et al. (US 20040105251 A1) disclose the backlight system 202 comprising two light sources 2021, two corresponding light source covers 2022, two corresponding light guide plates 2024, a reflection plate 2023, a diffusion plate 2025, a brightness enhancing film 2026, a reflection polarizer 2027 and a special cover layer 2028.

Cole et al. (US 6496236 B1) disclose an electronic device has a display housing which includes a display panel and at least two light sources used to backlight the display panel. The at least two light sources are activated independently of each other to selectively increase or decrease the illumination of the display panel.

Knoll et al. (US 6724450 B1) disclose a liquid crystal display with the use of two light guides and two light sources for separate rear illumination of different image angle regions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HOAN C. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-2296. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY:8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim H. Robert can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HOAN C. NGUYEN
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

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ROBERT KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER